

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

OPTICAL PICKUP APPARATUS, RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS PROVIDED WITH THE OPTICAL PICKUP APPARATUS, OPTICAL ELEMENT, AND INFORMATION RECORDING/REPRODUCING METHOD

the specification of which is attached.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>
JAPAN	015010/1999	January 22, 1999
JAPAN	041925/1999	February 19, 1999
JAPAN	095347/1999	April 1, 1999
JAPAN	097480/1999	April 5, 1999
JAPAN	257466/1999	September 10, 1999
JAPAN	312701/1999	November 2, 1999

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Continued on page 2

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner, Reg. No. 22,540; Douglas B. Henderson, Reg. No. 20,291; Ford. F. Farabow, Jr., Reg. No. 20,630; Arthur S. Garrett, Reg. No. 20,338; Donald R. Dunner, Reg. No. 19,073; Brian G. Brunsvold, Reg. No. 22,593; Tipton D. Jennings, IV, Reg. No. 20,645; Jerry D. Voight, Reg. No. 23,020; Laurence R. Hefter, Reg. No. 20,827; Kenneth E. Payne, Reg. No. 23,098; Herbert H. Mintz, Reg. No. 26,691; C. Larry O'Rourke, Reg. No. 26,014; Albert J. Santorelli, Reg. No. 22,610; Michael C. Elmer, Reg. No. 25,857; Richard H. Smith, Reg. No. 20,609; Stephen L. Peterson, Reg. No. 26,325; John M. Romary, Reg. No. 26,331; Bruce C. Zotter, Reg. No. 27,680; Dennis P. O'Reilley, Reg. No. 27,932; Allen M. Sokal, Reg. No. 26,695; Robert D. Bajefsky, Reg. No. 25,387; Richard L. Stroup, Reg. No. 28,478; David W. Hill, Reg. No. 28,220; Thomas L. Irving, Reg. No. 28,619; Charles E. Lipsey, Reg. No. 28,165; Thomas W. Winland, Reg. No. 27,605; Basil J. Lewris, Reg. No. 28,818; Robert J. Gaybrick, Reg. No. 27,890; Martin I. Fuchs, Reg. No. 28,508; E. Robert Yoches, Reg. No. 30,120; Barry W. Graham, Reg. No. 29,924; Thomas H. Jenkins, Reg. No. 30,857; Robert E. Converse, Jr., Reg. No. 27,432; Clair X. Mullen, Jr., Reg. No. 20,348; Christopher P. Foley, Reg. No. 31,354; John C. Paul, Reg. No. 30,413; Roger D. Taylor, Reg. No. 28,992; David M. Kelly, Reg. No. 30,953; Kenneth J. Meyers, Reg. No. 25,146; Carol P. Einaudi, Reg. No. 32,220; Walter Y. Boyd, Jr., Reg. No. 31,738; Steven M. Anzalone, Reg. No. 32,095; and Please address all correspondence to FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT AND DUNNER, 1300 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, Telephone No. (202) 408-4000.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

INVENTOR; SIGNATURE	DATE	RESIDENCE AND POST OFFICE ADDRESS
Sign: <i>Norikazu Arai</i> Type: Norikazu ARAI	Date: <i>December 20, 1999</i> Citizen of: Japan	c/o Konica Corporation 2970 Ishikawa-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan
Sign: <i>Toshiyuki Kojima</i> Type: Toshiyuki KOJIMA	Date: <i>December 20, 1999</i> Citizen of: Japan	c/o Konica Corporation 2970 Ishikawa-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan
Sign: <i>Toshihiko Kiriki</i> Type: Toshihiko KIRIKI	Date: <i>December 20, 1999</i> Citizen of: Japan	c/o Konica Corporation 2970 Ishikawa-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan
Sign: <i>Kohei Ota</i> Type: Kohei OTA	Date: <i>December 20, 1999</i> Citizen of: Japan	c/o Konica Corporation 2970 Ishikawa-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan
Sign: <i>Shinichiro Saito</i> Type: Shinichiro SAITO	Date: <i>December 20, 1999</i> Citizen of: Japan	c/o Konica Corporation 2970 Ishikawa-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER • WASHINGTON, D.C.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY